

# NAVIGATING CHANGE

## in the St. Croix Valley

### Finding Power at the Confluence of Art and Nature

Our region has rich resources to guide us through historic growth and environmental change ahead. We may take different routes downstream, but the ideas from Navigate can align our journeys.

#### Bedrock Values

*Art, nature, and community connect the St. Croix and help us shape change.*

- Nourishing and sustaining our artistic and natural resources makes us proud to share this place.
- Recognizing that space is critical for creative and immersive endeavors, wonder and awe.
- Passing on our culture, values and memories to future generations is key to preserving the St. Croix Valley.

#### Rooted Change

The past forms a foundation for the future. Like St. Croix River sandbars come and go, we hold traditions and welcome new ideas. A resilient future is flexible but stands on footings of local food, heritage, ecology and business.

#### Braided Channels

Like islands and water, the river weaves together distinctive arts and nature experiences. The communities of the St. Croix Valley are each unique, yet connected by the river – cultures carved by water.

**Art and nature support a unique way of life in the St. Croix Valley. From The Falls to the Mississippi, creativity connects us to the land and people. Communities thrive as the world changes.**

#### Living Art

The creative process is key to innovation and a strong future. Visual, literary, and performing arts are abundant in the St. Croix Valley. There are artists and naturalists; gathering places and space to escape; surprising opportunities to take part in creative endeavors.

## OUR VISION FOR THE ST. CROIX VALLEY

From bluffs up and down the river, we can see where we're going:

- Inter-connected people and places
- Artful ways to interact with the land
- Space for art in the environment
- Artists involved in community conversations
- Solid science and diverse art practices
- Powered by forces at the confluence of art and nature

#### RIPPLE EFFECTS

We can each move downstream independently to reach our collective vision:

- Celebrate and share the peace, beauty and complexity of nature
- Seek inspiration from the restorative power of nature
- Serve as stewards of how the St. Croix functions
- Influence our communities to shape change
- Create art that conveys our values to guide our future
- Broaden the circle of change-makers
- Be restored by the river
- Create – practice art, write a haiku, make a canoe, plant a garden, make a difference

#### OUR RESOLVE

*To work at the intersection of arts and nature to shape change in our communities.*

**1.1 billion years**

**ago:** North America tries to tear itself in half, lava spills through the rip and cools into basalt.

**500 million years ago:**

Sand and shells settle out of shallow sea waters and set as sandstone and limestone.

Life as we know it begins. Some species survive today, like dragonflies and sturgeon.

**20,000-12,000 years ago:** Glaciers scour and flood the land, carve gorges and bluffs through basalt and sandstone.

**Beginning 15,000 to 50 years ago:** Humans become a powerful force on the planet, affecting Earth from the soil to the atmosphere.

**1,000 - 7000 years ago:**

Indigenous people live on the banks of the river and make pottery with clay and mussel shells.

**Since then:**

Painters, poets, potters, and performers, weavers and sculptors, makers of all kinds create and continue traditions.

**1968:** The river is one of the inaugural eight included in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. It is managed by the National Park Service.

**2015-2016:** Twenty people who care about art and nature in the St. Croix Valley come together for five workshops called Navigate – strengthening the system.

**Fall 2017:** Stillwater Lift Bridge closes, new St. Croix Crossing opens.

**2017 -future:** The St. Croix Valley is recognized as an arts and nature region based on a movement of active citizens, artists, environmentalists, civic and business leaders who adopt these values and believe in this vision.

**2050:** Region will be 2 to 3 degrees warmer. Spring deluges followed by dry summers. Lots of algae.

**Or?**



***In the St. Croix Valley, we are restored by the river –  
and are inspired to return the favor.***

*step out of your head  
through the St. Croix scenery  
into the canvas*

*a new point-of-view  
the land where we stand matters  
more than what we see*

*people change places  
where we go is who we are  
trees bending to sun*

*braided through bedrock  
river and art and people —  
go, sculpt the future*

Haiku by Greg Seitz

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Photo by John Schletty

